

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11-2017**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING MEASURES TO COMBAT DROUGHT
STATEWIDE IN MONTANA**

WHEREAS, since on or about April 1, 2017, a widespread drought in Montana has caused significant injury to agricultural crops, including livestock forage, imposing economic hardships on Montana's farmers and ranchers;

WHEREAS, conditions have worsened throughout the summer as more Montana counties and Indian reservations experience extreme and persistent drought conditions throughout the state;

WHEREAS, all Montana counties and Indian reservations have lower than normal moisture accumulation, and dozens have experienced record or near-record levels of drought for months;

WHEREAS, relieving certain requirements for commercial motor vehicle carrier vehicles in Montana will assist Montanans by reducing restrictions on the transport of forage, water, and agricultural implements, including those requirements provided in §§ 61-10-154, 61-10-121, 61-10-211, 15-70-456, MCA and A.R.M. § 18.8.1502;

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2017, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration added Montana to its emergency declaration, which exempts motor carriers providing direct assistance to the drought from Parts 390 through 399 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations; the exemption is in effect until 11:59 P.M. on October 26, 2017 or the end of the emergency, whichever is sooner; and

WHEREAS, under § 61-10-111, MCA, the Governor may, through executive order, exempt vehicles from certain size and weight limits for a specified, limited period of time during emergency circumstances, including conditions brought about by a weather event or other natural occurrence for which the movement of vehicles that may exceed size and weight limits is necessary for responding to the event or occurrence or for moving supplies, agricultural, or other products.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 61, Chapter 10, Section 111, MCA, and under other applicable statutes, do hereby order the Director of the Montana Department of Transportation to:

- (1) Allow baled livestock feed for drought relief efforts with a destination within the boundaries of Montana to exceed the statutory limits of weight by 20 percent, provided that the manufacturers' rated capacity for the vehicle, axle or tires is not exceeded, on all highways in the state except those that are part of the Federal aid interstate system; and

- (2) Waive temporary registration, temporary fuel permits, and over-dimensional permits and requirements.

Commercial vehicle carriers, while under this Order, may not require or allow fatigued drivers to operate a motor vehicle.

This Order is effective immediately and expires at 11:59 P.M. on October 26, 2017 or at the end of the U.S. Department of Transportation's emergency declaration, whichever is sooner.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of
the State of Montana this 18TH day of
SEPTEMBER, 2017.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State

BY: JEFFREY HUDSON, DEPUTY